

Message Text

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SUBJ: PC LEADERSHIP CANDIDATE MULRONEY HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE
IN QUEBEC CITY.

1. THE BATTLE FOR QUEBEC DELEGATES TO APPROACHING NATIONAL CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP CONVENTION REACHED A NEW LEVEL OF INTENSITY FEBRUARY 4. MULRONEY ANNOUNCED AT CHATEAU FRONTENAC PRESS CONFERENCE THAT QUOTES PART QUOTES OF CLAUDE WAGNER'S ORGANIZATION HAD DEFECTED TO HIM. HE PRESENTED AS NEW PRESIDENT OF HIS QUOTES FEMININE COMMITTEE QUOTES LISE BOURQUE WHO WAS A FORMER CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE, PRESIDENT OF THE MAISONNEUVE-ROSEMONT CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION, AND, UNTIL YESTERDAY, A MEMBER OF THE WAGNER ORGANIZATION.
2. BOURQUE SUPPOSEDLY IS BRINGING 15 OTHER QUOTES GOOD QUEBEC CONSERVATIVES QUOTES WITH HER INTO MULRONEY CAMP FROM WAGNER CAMP. SHE CLAIMED THAT MANY QUEBEC DELEGATES WERE UNHAPPY THAT THE QUOTES WAGNER CAMP QUOTES WRAPPED THEM UP BEFORE THEY KNEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED. SHE ADDED THAT WHEN DELEGATES REALIZED THAT THIS HAD HAPPENED ALL AROUND THE PROVINCE, THEY BEGAN TO REBEL AND MORE WILL BE DEFECTING.
- 3.. THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS OSTENSIBLY CALLED TO ANNOUNCE THE FORMATION OF THE NEW COMMITTEE OF FEMININE ACTION UNDER MRS. BOURQUE AND CELINE BLOUIN TO ASSURE THAT WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE WITH MULRONEY QUOTES AS 50 PER CENT OF DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION ARE WOMEN AND/OR YOUNG PEOPLE.

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QUOTES MULRONE'S TEAM IS COUNTING ON THEIR HELP FOR THE

FINAL BLITZ OF THE PROVINCE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

4. DURING THE CONFERENCE, MULRONEY STATED THAT HE IS READY TO EFFECT A NEW DIVISION OF POWERS BETWEEN LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO FAVOR THE PROVINCES MORE THAN ACTUAL DIVISION DOES. HE REFUSED, HOWEVER, TO SAY WHAT POWERS HE WOULD CEDE TO PROVINCES IF HE WERE NOMINATED AND ELECTED. HE RAILED AGAINST THE SIZE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND PROMISED TO REDUCE ITS EXPANSION OVER A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS. HE PROMISED TO REVEAL MORE DETAILS AT THE LEADERSHIP CONVENTION ITSELF. SO AS TO FOCUS HIS IRE SOMEWHAT ON THE LIBERALS, MULRONEY TOOK SEVERAL SHOTS AT TRUDEAU'S VISIT TO CUBA STATING THAT THIS WAS NOT THE TIME TO AGGRAVATE CANADA'S MOST IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNER.

5. MULRONEY GAINED HIS CURRENT FAME AS A MEMBER OF THE CLICHE COMMISSION AND HE WAS ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON LABOR UNION PROBLEMS. IN BRIEF, HE RESPONDED THAT THE KEY TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY PROBLEM IN QUEBEC IS THE ABOLITION OF THE LABOR UNION HIRING HALLS. MULRONEY BELIEVES THAT SOONER OR LATER THE GOQ WILL HAVE TO TACKLE THIS PROBLEM. NOTWITHSTANDING THEIR FAILURE TO ACT ON THIS PROBLEM, MULRONEY INDICATED THAT THE GOQ RECORD OF IMPLEMENTING 100 OF 134 RECOMMENDATIONS IS GOOD. MULRONEY CONCLUDED THAT THE SITUATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IS QUOTE MORE NORMAL QUOTE NOW THAN IT WAS BEFORE THE CLICHE INQUIRY.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE QUEBECOIS PREOCCUPATION WITH THEIR ANNUAL WINTER CARNIVAL AND ONLY MODERATE INTEREST IN FEDERAL POLITICS, THE CURRENT DOGFIGHT BETWEEN 2 QUEBECERS - WAGNER AND MULRONEY - FOR QUEBEC DELEGATES HAS ATTRACTED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ATTENTION AND LATENT ADMIRATION FOR MULRONEY WHO HAS A LAW DEGREE FROM LAVAL. IN ADDITION, QUEBEC CITY'S SMALL RESIDUAL ANGLOPHONE COMMUNITY CONTAINS SOME PC ACTIVISTS WHO ARE PRO-MULRONEY. THE EVENTS DESCRIBED ABOVE MIGHT INDICATE, IF REPEATED ELSEWHERE, THAT THE POPULAR CLICHE COMMISSIONER HAS MORE STRENGTH IN THE PROVINCE THAN WAS ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED.

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